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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 261

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION UPON THE DEATH OF THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill creates a secondary deadline by which the person designated by a motor vehicle's owner to assume ownership when the owner dies (the beneficiary) may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a new title and registration in the beneficiary's name. By doing so, the bill potentially gives beneficiaries more time to transfer vehicle ownership.

Under current law, a beneficiary has 60 days after the owner's death to apply for a new title and a registration in his or her name. The bill instead gives applicants until 60 days after the death or before the registration's expiration, whichever is later. By law, motor vehicle registrations are generally issued for three-year periods.

As under existing law, if the beneficiary fails to apply within this timeframe, he or she has no rights to ownership and title. Additionally, the beneficiary's right to obtain ownership and title is subordinate to the rights of any lienholder with a recorded security interest.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37    Nay 4    (03/30/2026)